

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF RIALTO RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the Administration an innovative clean-energy project currently under development in my District in California.

The Rentech Rialto Renewable Energy Center will be a first-of-its-kind facility, where biomass from grass clippings and tree trimmings from surrounding communities is converted into diesel fuel and electric power.

The electric power from this project, so greatly needed in our region, will contribute to utility efforts to meet obligations under the California Renewables Portfolio Standard, displacing current, conventional fossil energy-based power generation.

Because the fuel produced is biodegradable, cutting pollution significantly compared to conventional fuels, eight airlines (Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, UPS Airlines and US Airways) have already signed a contract to buy this fuel for their ground equipment at Los Angeles International Airport.

I consider this to be a model project that other cities in California and around our country can adopt to not only help cut our dependence on foreign oil, but also to reduce emissions of green house gasses and pollutants.

I have urged the Department of Energy to give the Rialto Renewable Energy Center all due consideration as it considers Rentech's application for a Title 17 loan guarantee under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

This project exemplifies what Congress had in mind when it created a new category in this program for "renewable energy systems" and "leading edge biofuels projects" that "substantially reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to other transportation fuels."

This project will bring energy security, as well as environmental and economic benefits to our community. Two-hundred and fifty jobs will be created during construction, and once operational, there will be about 70 permanent jobs on the site.

Additional jobs will be created or sustained both upstream in the collection and transportation of the green waste or downstream in the distribution of the fuel. Rialto and San Bernardino have been especially hard hit by the recession, and these jobs are desperately needed in my District.

Today I again call upon the Department of Energy to support this project for the many benefits that it will not only bring to San Bernardino County and the rest of Southern California and the Inland Empire, but also for the benefits that our nation will reap from future versions of this project located in other areas.

HONORING BILL FRIDAY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor William C. "Bill" Friday, the man whose name was synonymous with higher education in North Carolina for much of the 20th century. This week, he celebrated his 90th birthday.

Few North Carolinians are as well known or as widely respected as Bill Friday. Although he has never run for elected office, the former president of the University of North Carolina (UNC) system has been prominent in public affairs for decades and ranks as one of the most important American university presidents of the post-World War II era. As the longest-serving President of North Carolina's public university system, Bill Friday has been a friend to anyone and everyone educated in that system, anyone employed by that system, and anyone living in the vibrant towns and cities that surround our state's public universities.

Bill Friday was born in Raphine, Virginia, but he grew up in Dallas, North Carolina, a small community in Gaston County. He graduated from Dallas High School, where he played baseball and basketball, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University and a law degree from UNC Chapel Hill. He also served in the United States Naval Reserve during World War II.

Friday's entire professional life was spent in higher education. Before becoming president of the UNC system in 1957, he served as assistant dean of students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1948–1951), assistant to the President of the Consolidated University of North Carolina (1951–1955), and Secretary of the University of North Carolina system. After a brief period as Acting President of the system, he was chosen to take the position permanently. It was a job at which he thrived.

Friday's tenure as UNC president spanned the greatest period of growth for higher education in American history, and he played a crucial role in shaping our sixteen-campus university during that time. Early on, the Council of Advancement and Support of Education identified Friday as the most effective public university president in the nation.

Bill Friday was a consistent supporter of academic freedom and integrity. During the civil rights movement, he often served as mediator between student activists and the conservative state legislature. He led a five-year effort to repeal the 1963 Speaker Ban Law, which prohibited campuses from hosting appearances by government critics. And he fought to keep tuition affordable so that limited means would not be a barrier to higher education.

Friday was also a visionary leader, and he pursued that vision in many areas. His involvement in the Carnegie Commission on the

Future of Higher Education led to gains in North Carolina and the nation in federal funding for student aid in Pell Grants and the establishment of the Area Health Education Centers. He served as founding co-chair of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, which has worked persistently to reform college athletics. Friday helped to develop the National Humanities Center; he supported the establishment of North Carolina public radio through UNC; and he was instrumental in the creation and growth of the Research Triangle Park.

As Charlotte Observer associate editor Jack Betts noted about Bill Friday: "He often seemed to be everywhere, but he was always no further away than a telephone, willing to talk about state history, fully cognizant of the state's many needs and always enthusiastic about the progress the state could make through its various educational enterprises, especially the university. He was a university president, but at heart he has always been a teacher." I can certainly attest to this personally as the recipient of many Bill Friday notes and calls and as one who has benefitted enormously from his generous and wise counsel.

Friday has mentored university leaders, governors and presidents in the course of his public life and he has received a multitude of accolades—including just about every honor North Carolina has to bestow. These honors include the American Council on Education's National Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement, the National Humanities Medal, the American Academy for Liberal Education's Jacques Barzun Award, and the John Hope Franklin Award. In 2004, the N.C. General Assembly held a special joint session to honor Friday's life and work. The legislature and then-Gov. Mike Easley presented William and Ida Friday with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award for service to North Carolina.

Now retired from the university, Friday heads the William R. Kenan, Jr., Fund and the Kenan Charitable Trust. Friday also currently hosts a public television talk show, North Carolina People, which he began while still president of the UNC system. The show brings Tar Heel state residents insights from leaders in education, politics, business, and the arts, adding richly to our public discourse.

Even in retirement, Friday keeps an office at UNC Chapel Hill and serves as a formal and informal sounding board and dispenser of wisdom for students, administrators and others. The University of North Carolina System has given its state so much: public servants, educators and other professionals, small and large business leaders, innovative researchers, informed citizens: these make up the fabric that weaves together our communities. At 90, Bill remains fiercely dedicated to the idea that education is uniquely powerful, giving young people the tools they need to shape their lives, live out their dreams, and better society.

As Bill himself would insist, he has not achieved these great things on his own. He had the good fortune and good sense in 1942

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